

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 095389

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, MR

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: KOREA QUESTION--MAURITAN-
IAN POSITION

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 878, AMB. AGGREY - AF/W LETTER OF MARCH 23

1. ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA, ARMED TRUCE IN EXISTENCE
SINCE END OF KOREAN WAR CONTINUES WITHOUT APPRECIABLE
SIGNS OF CHANGE. EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE ROK PROPOSED THAT
A NON-AGGRESSION PACT BE SIGNED BETWEEN SEOUL AND
PYONGYANG TO ALLEVIATE TENSIONS BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES.
THE NORTH REJECTED THIS PROPOSAL AND INSTEAD REITERATED
PROPOSAL DATING FROM 1974 FOR A CONFERENCE OF LEADERS
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FROM GROUPS WITHIN BOTH SOCIETIES TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS
AND DEVELOP ARRANGEMENTS LEADING TO NATIONAL REUNIFICA-
TION. THE NORTH REMAINS UNWILLING TO DEAL WITH THE
ROK, CALLING INSTEAD FOR ITS REPLACEMENT AS PRECONDITION
TO FURTHER PROGRESS IN NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS.

2. IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE, THE NORTH CONTINUES TO

EXPERIENCE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN REPAYING ITS FOREIGN DEBT TO COMMUNIST AND WESTERN CREDITORS. PLANTS PURCHASED ON CREDIT FROM ABROAD ARE PROVING DIFFICULT TO COMPLETE AND PLACE INTO OPERATION IN RIGIDLY CONTROLLED ECONOMY. ON OTHER HAND, ROK ECONOMY CONTINUES TO GROW

ALONG BROAD FRONT AND IS ACHIEVING INCREASINGLY PROMINENT POSITION ON WORLD SCENE. ON CURRENT PRICE BASIS, 1976 GNP REACHED 25 BILLION DOLLARS, 33.4 PERCENT OVER 1975 LEVEL. REAL GNP GROWTH 1975-1976 WAS ON ORDER OF 15 PERCENT.

3. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHAT DPRK'S PLANS ARE FOR 1977 UNGA. THEY WILL BE AFFECTED BY COMBINATION OF INTERNAL FACTORS, REACTIONS TO US MOVES, AND DISCOURAGEMENT AT RESULTS OF NEW DELHI NON-ALIGNED CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING. HOWEVER, IF NORTH KOREA DOES DECIDE TO TRY FOR ANOTHER RESOLUTION AT NEXT GA SESSION, IT WILL HAVE TO MAKE A SUSTAINED EFFORT IN CAPITALS WITH MORE SOPHISTICATION THAN IT HAS SO FAR EVER DISPLAYED. EVIDENCE OF SUCH A RENEWED CAMPAIGN COULD WELL SURFACE FIRST IN A CAPITAL LIKE NOUAKCHOTT OR IN A MEETING OF A SPECIALIZED AGENCY (THERE BEING NO FURTHER APPROPRIATE LDC CONCLAVE THIS YEAR LIKE NEW DELHI OR LAST YEAR'S NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT AT COLOMBO). WE SUGGEST THAT YOU FIRST ASCERTAIN MOUKNASS' INTENTIONS FOR GOM/NORTH KOREAN RELATIONS AND WHETHER HE HAS ANYTHING WORTH KNOWING ABOUT PYONGYANG'S PLANS. YOU COULD TELL HIM THAT THE LAST UNGA AND THE CONFIDENTIAL

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NEW DELHI NACCFM STRONGLY INDICATE TO US THAT A VERY LARGE MAJORITY OF UN MEMBERS OF ALL KINDS AND IDEOLOGIES PREFER TO HAVE KOREAN QUESTION DIRECTLY DECIDED BY THE TWO KOREAS AND BELIEVE THAT FURTHER DISCUSSION OF IT IN THE UN WOULD BE UNPRODUCTIVE AND A DIVERSION OF IMPORTANT TIME AND ENERGY. WE OURSELVES BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE RIGHT COURSE AND HOPE THAT THE GIRM WILL SUPPORT IT.
VANCE

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